(c) The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and through its overseas offices and Indian missions abroad, takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories as and when issued by different countries to avoid any adverse impact on tourism in the country.

In addition, to increase the number of FTAs in India, Ministry of Tourism is undertaking a series of promotional activities through its Indiatourism offices overseas. These activities include advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Tourism projects for Hyderabad and Secunderabad

3193. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached her Ministry for the tourism projects to be taken up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Secunderabad and Hyderabad twin cities which possess rich heritage and culture which has already completed 400 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far; and

(c) if not, by when action would be taken on such important issues in Andhra Pradesh to promote the tourism to generate more revenue in the southern region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects, identified in consultation and interaction with them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority under various schemes of the Ministry.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 15675.91 lakh during the 11th Plan for the integrated development of tourism in the State of Andhra Pradesh which also includes a project for Development of Charminar Area of Hyderabad sanctioned in year 2007-08 for Rs.994.75 lakh.

5 Star hotel and health resorts in Himachal Pradesh

3194. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers for inviting private sector for setting up of five-star hotels and health resorts to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to hand over some of its properties in Himachal Pradesh to the private sector as part of its disinvestment plans; and

(d) if so, property-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Setting up/construction of hotels is capital intensive with a long gestation period and primarily, a private sector activity. Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State/Union Territory Governments & other land owning agencies for creating 'Land Banks' for hotels, allotting land for hotels on Joint Venture/revenue sharing basis, adopting Single Window Clearance, increasing Floor Area Ratio (FAR).

As per the information received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, the State has identified five sites which are being offered to the private sector for setting up tourism related activities at Baddi (Distt. Solan), Jhatingri (Distt. Mandi), Bilaspur (Bilaspur), 15 Miles Baragaon Manali (Distt. Kullu) & Shpja Banjar (Distt. Kullu). In addition, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has also identified three cafes for disinvestment which are located at Abshar at Solan, Bhairav at Baijnath (Kangra) and Geetanjali (Chamba).

Yatri niwas type hotels

3195. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build Yatri Niwas type hotels before the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, details thereof with approximate rooms likely to be constructed; and

(c) the plans of Government to introduce new tourist circles during the Commonwealth Games, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Organizing Committee, XIXth Commonwealth Games, Delhi-2010 has set up a "Games Travel Office" which would cater to the tourism requirements and travel packages covering various tourist circuits of the country during the Games.

Tourism development proposals from Tamil Nadu

3196. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received proposals for the development of tourism from the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the projects received;

(c) whether necessary sanctions have been granted and funds allocated; and

(d) the project-wise details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance every year for the Product/Infrastructure development of destinations/circuits.